

In the Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method of extending a nascent oligonucleotide-3'-OH in a template-dependent manner, the method comprising the step of contacting the nascent oligonucleotide-3'-OH with a nucleic acid template, a template-dependent polymerase and  $4^N$  oligonucleotide triphosphates each including N monomers, wherein N is an integer ~~greater than 1,~~ equal to 2 or 3, under conditions in which said nascent oligonucleotide-3'-OH hybridizes with said nucleic acid template and said template-dependent polymerase is active in incorporating said oligonucleotide triphosphates onto a growing 3'-OH group of the nascent oligonucleotide-3'-OH, thereby extending the nascent oligonucleotide-3'-OH in a template-dependent manner.

Claims 17-33 (Canceled)